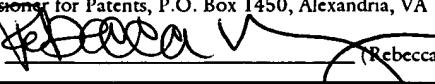


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV 419 118 435 US, in an envelope addressed to: MS AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: July 6, 2004

Signature: 

(Rebecca McElroy)

Docket No.: 251502009000
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Pieter H. POUWELS et al.

Application No.: 09/720,583

Filed: (Int'l) June 25, 1999

Art Unit: 1652

For: PROPIONIBACTERIUM VECTOR

Examiner: M. Walicka

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

MS AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the final Office Action dated January 5, 2004 in connection with the above-identified application. Filed herewith is a Petition and fee for a 3 month extension of time, thereby extending the deadline for response to July 6, 2004 (July 5th being a federal holiday). Accordingly, this response is timely filed.

Applicants have given careful consideration to the grounds for rejections. The following amendments and remarks are believed to place this application in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.